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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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GENERAL WAVELL

Axis Design Checked

We have already been successful in helping to check the Axis design of a great pincer drive from east and west towards India, or of forcing on us a fatal dispersion of our strength in men, ships, aircraft and equipment at the crisis of last summer when the enemy's offensive power was at full blast. We have thus greatly aided the successes we are now winning in Africa and the Russian counter-offensive

The United States forces in the South-West Pacific can justly claim to have avenged Pearl Harbour and our other setbacks at sea. The day will come when you will also avenge our reverses on land. I can assure you that I am doing all in my power to hasten the approach of that day

GENERAL WAVELL, in a broadcast to the armed forces in India on Tuesday (Dec. 8)

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Running Commentary

"French Pearl Harbour:" Col. Knox's Report. In a broadcast speech published by the Fighting French newspaper, *La Marseillaise* on Sunday (December 6th) General de Gaulle said, "French soldiers whether they fought in Tunisia, in Libya, or in the Pacific, were not soldiers of any one person, they were soldiers of France." It was a realization of this fact which was mainly responsible for the great act of self-immolation of the French Fleet at Toulon, an act which has excited the admiration of the whole world. Referring to the fate of the French fleet General de Gaulle said some time ago, "In one brief instant, captains, officers and ratings saw through the odious veil of lies which, since June 1940, has hung before their eyes. In one instant, they understood to what a terrible end they had been led." This great act by which France redeemed its honour has deprived Hitler of a prize which the occupation of the whole of France would have given. It is not generally known that the French Navy till recently was a considerable fighting force and had suffered but small losses since the outbreak of the war. All that France lost up to Dunkirk was one cruiser, a mine-layer and two destroyers. At Dunkirk itself, when the British and French forces were withdrawing, seven

MADRAS'S GENEROUS GIFT

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The following letter has been received from the Commanding Officer of the 7th Light Cavalry:—

I have the honour to write on behalf of all Ranks of the Regiment to thank you most sincerely for your most generous gift of nineteen Armoured Carriers and five Armoured Cars, a gift which is greatly appreciated by all.

The Regiment is proud of the fact that it was originally in the Madras Army and bore the title of Madras Cavalry. Now by your generosity our old connections are freshed in our memories, and we will be proud to go on service with some of our armour named after certain communities of the Madras Presidency.

(Signed) J. M. H..................

Lt.-Col.

destroyers, and several minor vessels, which were giving them cover, were sunk by the enemy. Before the tragedy of Toulon, Vichy France had four great battleships, excluding *Jean Bart* which was damaged during the Allied landings in North Africa, namely, *Richelieu* (35,000 tons) at Dakar, *Strasbourg* and *Dunkerque* (26,500 tons each) and *Provence* (22,000 tons) at Toulon. In addition to these battleships, Vichy France had 2 aircraft-carriers, 35 destroyers and about 50 submarines. At the time of scuttling, Toulon was supposed to contain the following units of the French Fleet :—

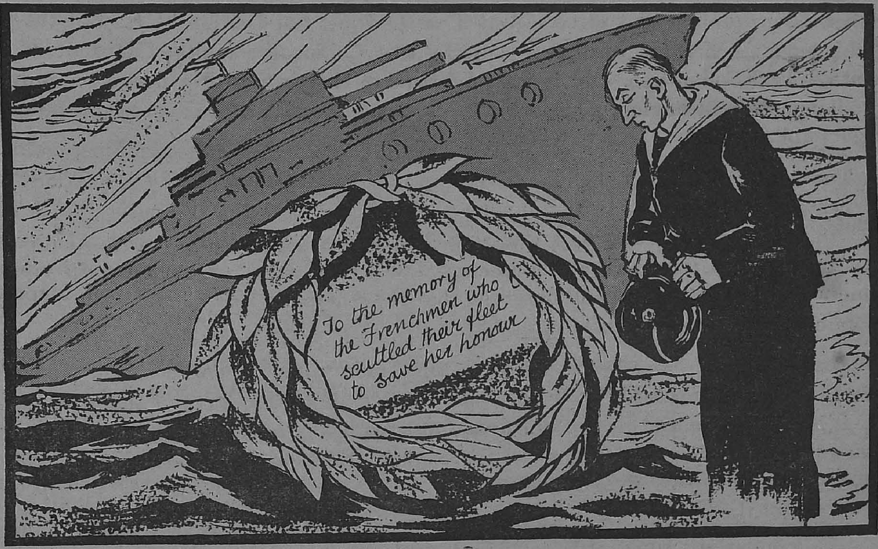
Battleships : *Strasbourg, Dunkerque* and *Provence.*

Heavy Cruisers : *Colbert, Algerie, Foch, Dupleix* (10,000 tons each).

Light Cruisers : *La Galissoniere, Jeanne de Vienne* and *La Marseillaise* (7,600 tons each).

Seaplane Carrier : *Commandant Teste* and 25 destroyers and 26 submarines and sloops.

The report of Col. Knox, U.S. Navy Secretary, published in Wednesday's papers, reveals details of what happened at the "French Pearl Harbour." Col. Knox says that one-quarter of the French Fleet at Toulon has been captured intact by the Axis forces. Only four French submarines escaped from Toulon. Altogether fifty warships had been damaged or sunk and fifteen warships were left "afloat and apparently intact." The battleships *Strasbourg, Dunkerque* and *Provence* were damaged. The seaplane carrier *Commandant Teste* was severely damaged. Out of 19 submarines originally at Toulon, six were in dry docks ; two of these were damaged. Of the remaining 13 submarines four are in Allied ports. The fifth is reported to have hit a mine and been sunk while attempting to escape. Eight submarines remain unaccounted for.



The two old battleships *Paris* and *Courbet* are in English waters. The Free French Fleet which consists of forty warships is mainly composed of submarines and destroyers.

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Beast wounded, but not stricken : Mr. Churchill's War Review. In a speech from the steps of the Bradford Town Hall on Saturday (December 5) after a tour of factories in North-East England, Mr. Churchill stated that the struggle was approaching

(*Continued on page* 6.)

Pearl Harbour Avenged

A year ago Japan entered the war. On December 7, 1941, she attacked Pearl Harbour, the U.S. naval base in the Pacific. It was a stab in the back. There was not the slightest provocation or excuse for it. Negotiations were then going on in Washington between the emissaries of Japan and the representatives of the United States Government to see whether a peaceful settlement could not be arrived at. Subsequent events proved that these peace talks were intended to be a blind, under cover of which Japan wanted to prepare and launch a large-scale attack in the Pacific with a view to putting the American fleet out of commission altogether.

The full story of the treacherous Japanese attack has now been told, after the lapse of one full year, in all its detail. "If everything had been told about our losses," said Senator Russel of the Senate Naval Committee, "the Japanese would have been in there over-running the place. And if we had lost our bastion at Hawaii the war would have reached our own west coast by now." Senator Walsh, Chairman of the Senate Naval Committee, said it was unfortunate that owing to a desire to prevent the Japanese from having information the losses at Pearl Harbour could not be given to the public earlier.

The secret was well kept. Its disclosure now is coupled with the revelation that the heavy losses inflicted by the Japanese have been set right. Senator Walsh said that the most outstanding fact was that 105 enemy aircraft destroyed 177 Army and Navy planes, killed or wounded over 4,000, and sunk or damaged 19 vessels, including eight battleships, and observed that the American Navy's record in repairing the damage was "most gratifying."

Pearl Harbour has been avenged—and more than avenged. The Japanese claimed to have irreparably crippled 42 per cent of the Pacific Fleet of the U.S. Navy, but it is this "crippled" Navy which has inflicted heavy losses on the Japanese in the Solomons area during the last year. The Pearl Harbour anniversary record of loss inflicted on the enemy is as follows :—

> Three battle-ships, six aircraft-carriers, 28 cruisers, 47 destroyers and 7 submarines sunk, at least 265 war vessels damaged, and a large number of transports and supply vessels sunk or damaged.

Referring to these and other successes, General Sir Archibald Wavell, our Commander-in-Chief, said in a broadcast from Delhi on Tuesday night: "The United States forces in the South-West Pacific can justly claim to have avenged Pearl Harbour and our other setbacks at sea." "The day will come," he added, "when you will also avenge our reverses on land." He was addressing the naval, land and air forces under his command in India. Mr. Churchill in a message to them, which was read out by General Wavell, said :

> "As Britain has been held in the West, so India must be held in the East, and all the time you, to whom this defence is entrusted, must ceaselessly prepare for the day when you will advance and drive the aggressor from the peaceful lands which he has overrun."

Mr. Churchill observed that the period of waiting must be irksome to all of them who were eager to share in the victories which Allied arms were winning elsewhere, but he added, "the great forces assembling in the India Command are destined to play, before the end, a glorious part in achieving the downfall of our enemies." The day of this downfall is being hastened by a number of factors. For instance, Japan's maritime strength has considerably diminished, and is diminishing.

In the words of Col. Knox, the U.S. Navy Secretary:

> "The time is actually close when the Japanese forces in the occupied islands in the Pacific will suffer from lack of replacements of manpower, weapons, ammunition and medical supplies, owing to lack of ships to transport them."

Col. Knox said that the patient whittling away of the ship strength of the enemy lessened the magnitude of the task of the American forces along the road to Tokyo.

This task is lessened not only by the diminishing naval strength of Japan, but also by her growing insufficiency in machine-power. An American writer points out that every undertaking upon which Japan embarks has its genesis in one small area in Japan, from which must come every plane, every spare engine, every spare tread for a tank, every torpedo, shell and bomb. No matter how far-flung Japan's temporary gains may be, he says, a knock-out blow against her areas of productive power must bring inevitable collapse. How is this to be done? He draws attention to the fact that America has produced a long-range of heavy-bombers unprecedented in size and destructive power. They can fly well over 1,000 miles at 300 miles an hour, do their job, and return without refuelling.

He says:—

> "This great air armada is now beginning to emerge. By 1943 the United States will produce those great four-engined bombers at the rate of more than 500 a month, and also a much larger number of long-range medium bombers. This is an air striking power as different from that of Hitler, as Niagara is different from a fire-hose."

He estimates that, for the destruction of Japan, we require more than 1,000 heavy bombers operating from bases 700 to 1,000 miles from their objectives—bases which will contain all the maintenance and repair facilities essential to the task of keeping 1,000 great planes in the air. In fact, the Pacific War, particularly in the south, may be said to be a battle for air bases. If the Allies are to make their counter-attacks successfully effective, they must gain suitable air bases, and that is the object of the American and Australian attacks on Japanese positions in that area.

Japan must be deprived of her ill-gotten gains, and she will be, either by the long arm of the Allied air forces or by the heavy guns of Allied fleet in the Pacific, or by both. The growing power of the United Nations, says Mr. Churchill, will press steadfastly on till Japan is stripped of her conquests, punished for her treachery, and deprived of her powers of evil. He adds, "Retribution was always sure: It is now growing near." In a reply message to Mr. Churchill on the occasion of the anniversary of the Americans' entry into the war, President Roosevelt said:

> "*Partial retribution in kind has been meted out to Japanese forces during the last seven months. This is only the beginning. We will continue to strike them with ever increasing forces. I welcome your statement and join with you in the resolution that Japanese aggressive power must be totally destroyed. In no other way can we be certain that their infamous aggression will not be repeated.*"

After the Washington Conference in 1921, which averted a war in the Pacific, Mr. H. G. Wells felt sympathetically inclined towards the Japanese. He said, "The idea of them as of a people intensely patriotic, patriotically subtle and treacherous, mysterious and mentally inaccessible, has been largely dispelled." But the fact was an illusion was created, not dispelled. This was made very clear in December last year, and to-day it remains more clear than ever before that the treacherous aggressive military imperialism should be totally destroyed to save the East from barbarism.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3.)

its most tense part and that the hard core of Nazi resistance and villainy was not yet broken in upon. In his previous broadcast speech also, Mr. Churchill uttered a word of warning and caution. He said he could guarantee nothing, not even "that more successes are not on the way." He said, "I know of nothing that had happened yet, which justifies the hope that the war will not be long, or that bitter and bloody years do not lie ahead." Therefore, he added, "do not let us be led away by any fair-seeming appearance of fortune." He then gave a catalogue of German strength and said that the beast was wounded, not yet stricken, and it would be all the more ferocious for its pain and fear.

As regards the future, he gave an encouraging account of the rapidly growing Allied air strength as against that of the Axis. The Axis construction was not keeping pace with their losses and their front line was weakening both in numbers and quality. He referred to the U-boat campaign as one of the chief Axis dangers which remained to be overcome and pointed out that the Allies had sunk or heavily damaged an Axis submarine in the Mediterranean for every supply ship lost and had gained two tons for every ton sunk.

Mr. Churchill's broadcast speech may be regarded as the British reply for Hitler's taunts in October when he boasted of the greatness of the German achievement and ridiculed Allied efforts. Within two months, Mr. Churchill was able to throw these words back at Hitler and point to a string of Axis failures and Allied successes. In October Hitler expected a winter devoted to quiet defensive warfare, except perhaps in Egypt, while he recruited his strength to resist an invasion of France next spring. But now, he finds himself confronted with a new front in North Africa which threatens the whole Mediterranean position.

This has happened at a time when Rommel's forces have been sent reeling out of Egypt and the Russians are revealing unsuspected reserves of strength by opening two major offensives on the threshold of winter.

The Russian Counter-Offensive—Powerful and Methodically Planned. Last Friday was a memorable day for all Soviet citizens, for it marked the anniversary of the beginning of the successful Russian counter-offensive which pushed back the Germans before Moscow. This year, the Soviet counter-offensive was launched three weeks earlier than last year, and is inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Axis forces attacking Stalingrad have lost more than 100,000 men. After three months of grinding frustration, they are now having the disheartening experience of seeing the defenders of the "doomed" City take up the offensive and cause devastating attacks upon their rear. Axis forces have already lost much of their striking power by the annihilation of three of their armoured divisions.

The Russian armies are advancing north and south towards each other. Their movements represent, not hastily improvised diversions, but a very powerful and methodically-planned counter-offensive. The Germans had constructed a shield of fortified positions along the right bank of the Don and across to the Volga above Stalingrad. This was so strong that Marshal Timoshenko's pressure against it, when Stalingrad was

Rewards for rescue work

Rewards are offered for the rescue of airmen who come down into the sea around the coasts of India. Fishermen and others using coastal craft are asked to co-operate in short distance rescues of Air Force personnel in distress.

The Government of India has sanctioned as a wartime measure money payments to private individuals and bodies who effect rescues.

The rewards, which will be paid through the local civil authorities, are—

	Rs.
For each person rescued alive.	100
For each dead body recovered.	50

Owing to the vast extent of coastline along which our aircraft operate, the aid of the public will be a valuable supplement to officially organized rescue services.

very much hard pressed, made little headway, but now, a new striking force, supported by mass artillery and heavy tanks, has pierced through the fortified positions to a present depth of about 80 miles.

If the Russian forces west of Stalingrad and Rostov consolidate their present positions and press westward towards the estuary of the Don, they will be closing the gateway of the Caucasus and Hitler will have to clear out of North Caucasus bag and baggage. Realizing the mâgnitude of this danger, it may be expected that he will send in a very powerful force to keep the gateway of the Caucasus open, and, if possible to extricate his army in front of Stalingrad. But if Hitler diverts a considerable number of the Axis forces from the north to the south, he will be taking a very grave step, for the Red Army has already shown itself capable of launching a heavy counter-offensive in the north as it did last winter.

* * * *

Causes of Hitler's Failure in Russia

What will Hitler do in the present position? Will he, for the sake of prestige, face the appalling losses that would be incurred if he tries to maintain positions in front of Stalingrad, particularly at this time when the freezing of the Volga will deprive the City of its military significance until the spring? Will he persist in trying to hold the 700 mile bulge in the Caucasus because of possible Russian attacks in the Northern and Central Sectors? Or will he conserve his manpower by shortening the line, that is to say, by exchanging 700 miles in the Caucasus for the 300-mile stretch between Vorenezh and Rostov, as advised by Halder, his former Chief of Staff, and, before him, by Brauchitsch a year ago.

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE: The Standing Labour Committee, set up on the recommendation of the recent Tripartite Labour Conference, held its first meeting on November 30, and December 1, 1942, in New Delhi, when representatives of Provinces, States and the Government of India and of labour and employers discussed a wide range of subjects relating to labour.

Our photo shows the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (black coat), Labour Member of the Government of India, who presided, with the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, by his side and some of the representatives of Provincial Governments.

Whatever decision he takes, the Nazis will still be faced with a terrible winter, during which all their resources and powers of endurance will be needed to hold the line. There may not be much chance of withdrawing a considerable number of divisions from the eastern front either for rest and recuperation or for meeting commitments in Southern and Western Europe.

It is clear beyond any doubt whatever that Hitler's military record in Russia this year is "failure." He failed because he under-estimated the Russian capacity of patriotic sacrifice and endurance. He thought that the breaking

point in Russian resistance would be reached this winter when the Russians went hungry from lack of Ukranian and Caucasian wheat and began to despair as they saw farm tractors and factory machines cease working for want of oil and coal. Hitler was confident, from wide experience of resistance in other countries in Europe, that there was a point of Russian suffering at which her endurance would break. But all his confidence and calculation went wrong. He could not cripple the Russian war-machine, nor could he bring about the physical destruction of the Red Army. It stands to the great credit of Marshal Timoshenko that he avoided the break-up of the Red Army, though this was done at colossal sacrifice of rich food-growing and mineral-bearing territory.

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Battle for Stalingrad: Russia's Three Calculations. Now the Battle for Stalingrad is still going on. Three weeks ago, the Russians launched their offensive. The Germans are beginning the counter-attack in an organized manner and are moving up reinforcements from Rostov along part of the North Caucasian rail line which they still control. They fiercely counter-attacked advanced Soviet positions on the south-west of Stalingrad front, but they were thrown back with great losses. The Red Army pressure north-west of Stalingrad is not slackening both inside the triangle and along the river Chir area. Thus Stalingrad still stands as a great challenge of the spirit of resistance of the Russians to German aggression.

The Soviet Command decided to take very great risks with regard to Stalingrad—risks which have proved to be worth while. Hitler said that he would take the City at all costs and pledged his credit. The Russians said that they would defend the City named after their great leader, Stalin, at all costs. In deciding to wage one of the greatest battles of all time to save Stalingrad from the grip of the Nazis, the Soviet Government acted on three calculations. They were :—

(1) The superb quality of the Russian soldier with his back to the wall could hold the Germans in a dangerous salient until deadly counter-strokes could be prepared and delivered.

(2) The Russian people could survive and surmount the winter's suffering.

(3) The prodigious organizational effort of Central Russia and the Urals helped by enormous quantities of tanks and other material sent by Britain and America could keep the war-machine going at full pressure, at least during the critical winter months.

All these calculations have proved to be well-based. Hitler was lured into dissipating his resources. He has already lost 12 divisions in "killed" and prisoners, apart from wounded, and has suffered tremendous losses of valuable equipment since the Russian offensive on the Stalingrad front. His great blunder lay in battering at Stalingrad and creating a danger for himself at the Caucasian gateway and proceeding to invade the Caucasus without waiting for the danger to be removed. He had two simultaneous objectives, namely, to seize the Grozny oil fields and expel the Red Fleet from its harbours on the Black sea coast, so that a way may be opened for an advance into Trans-Caucasia and the great oil fields of Baku. His attempts at both these objectives have been halted, and the Germans are now faced with the possibility of complete failure in this campaign. This is due to the great quality of the Russians to face losses and endure suffering, which would break the heart of most people, and then strike back at the enemy when he has become distended and over-confident.

MALE NURSES FOR MILITARY HOSPITALS

Last April the Government of India in a press note announced their intention to recruit male nurses for military hospitals during the present emergency.

They are now pleased to announce improved terms and conditions of recruitment in respect of this category of Medical personnel. The scale of pay has been raised from Rs. 50–5–75 to 75–5–100 with an additional emergency allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem. Male nurses will be given the rank of Warrant officers, Class I, in the Indian Medical Department and on appointment will also be entitled to travelling allowances as for second-grade officers.

Amenities for Troops

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THE Joint War Charities Depot in Madras has been doing Amenities for Troops work since the beginning of the War. At first there was not much that could be done beyond the purchase and knitting up of wool into warm *garments for the men in the Middle East.* A further step was taken with last year's special appeal for *Christmas presents for the troops overseas*; presents of food were packed in standard cases for 21,000 men, in the proportion of 9 Indians to 1 British, and extra gifts of radios, gramophones, biscuits and sweets were also sent.

A further amenity for the troops provided at this time was the Joint War Charities *Harbour Canteen* for troops embarking for Burma, which provided them with tea, cold drinks, cigarettes, biscuits, soap, etc.

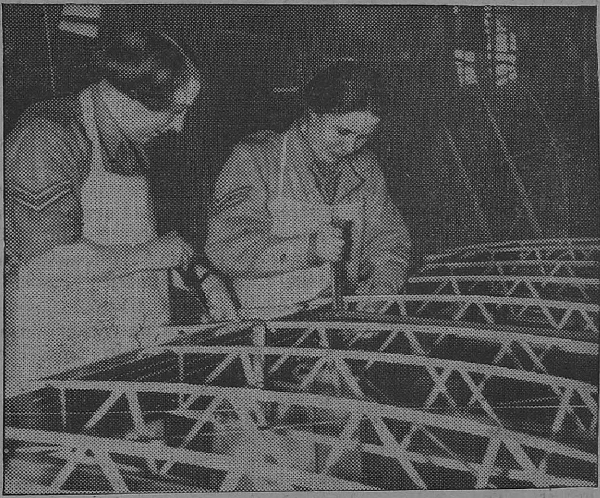
In April 1942, however, the whole nature and scope of the work changed completely. It was no longer a matter of doing what we could for troops overseas or embarking for overseas; *Madras itself was threatened, and it became our task to do what we could for the comfort of the troops who came here to defend us.* Most of them had and are still having a very uncomfortable time; they arrived in a great hurry, with no time to make any proper provision for them; they came at the beginning of the hot weather, when many of them had only just arrived from England, and had no experience at all of a tropical climate; they were in many cases at the mercy of unscrupulous contractors, because they knew no better; and they had little or no provision for any kind of recreation.

FORMS OF HELP

It was to help these troops, both Indian and British, that His Excellency the Governor made his special appeal for funds. Grants have been made to *voluntary canteens* opened for their benefit all over the Presidency, and also to *mobile canteens* operating in the district round Madras. *The Joint War Charities Depot* at the Banqueting Hall has become a centre for the supply of wireless sets, gramophones, outdoor and indoor games and all the other necessaries for making life a little pleasanter for men living out in the fields, away from any opportunities of recreation. Where they have money to pay for these, we help by buying the goods in bulk, and passing them on at a price well below the ordinary retail rate; where they have a little money but not enough, we provide the goods and take only part payment; in some cases, particularly of small isolated units, we provide gramophones and games free. If more money came into the fund we could do more in the way of free gifts.

The Depot also provide a *free circulating library of books and gramophone records* for troops within reach of Madras; some who are sixty or seventy miles away, but can manage to get in once a fortnight or so, avail themselves of this service.

The work of the Joint War Charities Depot is not limited to the troops in the Madras Presidency. These have a special call upon us, but so have the *Madrassi Units serving*



The first Women's Auxiliary Air Force formed in South Africa, took its origin from the South African Women's Aviation Association begun in 1938. It has over 4,000 W.A.A.F.'s on full-time service under the command of 24-year old Lieut.-Col. (Mrs.) Dunning. The W.A.A.F.'s work at aerodromes as artisans, parachute-packers, meteorologists, photographers, draughtsmen, armament instructors, link trainer instructors, decoding and technical education officers and range-finders, etc., filling posts on S.A.A.F. establishments all over South Africa, East Africa and the Middle East. Here two South African W.A.A.F. specialists are seen working on the metal work of a main plane of an aircraft.

overseas and also in other parts of India, where their own languages are not spoken. To them we have sent off consignments of Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam books and gramophones, records, musical instruments, games, beedies and cheroots, pickles, poppadums, tamarinds and cashewnuts, which have been enthusiastically received. Here again we could do much more, if there were more support to the Amenities for Troops Fund. It is obviously reasonable that we should cater for the needs of the Madrassi Units, since we can get books in the languages they speak and the kind of musical instruments and foodstuffs that they like. It would make things much easier if some organization in the north of India would do the same for the soldiers from the north now in the Madras Presidency; but since so far there does not seem to be anything of the kind we are doing the best we can. It is not easy for us to get Urdu and Punjabi literature and gramophone records and the men ask for musical instruments that are unfamiliar in the south; but we are making arrangements to supply these needs as well.

THE ESSENCE OF THE WORK

There is one other activity of the Joint War Charities Depot which, though it ultimately pays for itself, yet necessarily requires a good deal of capital. The Troops who arrived here, either from Great Britain or from the North of India, found themselves in a completely unknown country; they did not know the language, they did not know where to get anything, and most of them were a long way from any shopping centre. They were dependent upon contractors, and many of these seized the opportunity to make enormous profits. To remedy this, we tried an experiment with one or two units; they ran their own canteen without the intervention of a contractor, and we supplied the stock as cheaply as we could get it. The experiment was so successful that we now supply nearly all the units who can come into Madras by lorry, and many to whom we send consignments by rail; we provide cigarettes, tobacco, soap, razors, tooth brushes, sweets, lime juice, vests and pants, and many other items; and the work has grown till *we are now a kind of co-operative wholesale supply stores, making no profits and charging no overheads.*

That is the essence of the work of the Joint War Charities Depot; there are no overheads. *Every anna subscribed to this work goes for the benefit of the troops. The workers at the Depot are all voluntary, and the small clerical staff and other overhead charges are paid by the Government of Madras.* The troops themselves express the greatest appreciation of the work being done here; but unless more financial support is forthcoming, there is grave risk that it may have to be curtailed. Prices go up all the time; radios and gramophones are hard to get, and unless we have enough money to buy them in quantity as and when we can get hold of them, we cannot supply the needs of the troops.

Some districts may like to adopt a special unit, or the Tamils, Telugus or Malayalees in certain units. It will be realized that the location of any individual unit has to be kept confidential but *consignments of literature, musical instruments, games and foodstuffs can be forwarded from the Joint War Charities Depot to any individual unit,* and will certainly be most gratefully acknowledged.

Or perhaps some district may like to adopt one of the military hospitals in this Presidency, all of whom we supply with Red Cross equipment and amenities for the patients. The Joint War Charities Depot is responsible for all such assistance to *military hospitals, casualty clearing stations and field ambulances* in the whole Madras Presidency, and it will be understood that the need of financial assistance is very great.

THE TURNING POINT

"The battle about to begin will be one of the decisive battles in history. It will be the turning point in the war, and will swing our way. It may be a hard battle, and the Germans will fight, but we shall drive the Boche out of Africa. There is no alternative."

—GENERAL MONTGOMERY, *in an interview before the battle of El Agheila, on December 8.*

Cheerful and Courageous Warriors

(By a British officer in a B.B.C. talk.)

[A British officer who does not know India, but during the last year and more has served beside Indian troops of all kinds in battle in Syria, Egypt and Libya, pays tribute to Indian soldiers.]

I know nothing of the internal conditions in India, but during the last year and more I have seen Indian troops of all kinds in battle in Syria, Egypt and Libya. I do not know whether it is generally realized that an infantry brigade in the Indian Army consists of two Indian battalions and one English or Scottish battalion. The gunners are usually British. The Indian battalions themselves frequently consist of companies from different parts of India, Punjabis or Sikhs or Mahrattas or Rajputss or Jats or units from other parts of India or the Gurkhas from our ally Nepal.

IN DAMASCUS

I was lucky enough to be present on more than one occassion when these fine fighting troops went into action. The capture of Damascus in June last year was largely, if not wholly, due to an Indian infantry brigade, whose sole survivors at the end of a bloody battle consisted of one company. I shall never forget the house and garden in the suburbs of Damascus where the gallant troops, having forced their way in through intense fire, held out to the last round and to the last man. When they were finally overwhelmed by tanks and guns at short range, there was not one of the 50 survivors who was unwounded.

Nor shall I forget November last year at Sidi Omar, when a very strong position occupied by Germans and Italians was being attacked by the Sussex Regiment, the Sikhs and the Punjabis, the stirring sight of the Indians coming up into battle in their trucks —packed 20 to a truck—through heavy enemy fire, singing their battle songs, smiles on their faces and high courage in their hearts.

JOBS WELL DONE

To tell of all their battles during the last few months would take up too much time. I should, however, like to give you one or two examples of the sort of jobs they did so well. At Derna, for instance, where the Sikhs stormed the aerodrome while German aircraft were still coming down and taking off, there is a very steep cliff or escarpment facing the sea, with a most important road cut into its face—incidentally, a great feat of engineering. Huge portions of this road had been demolished. By manual labour, piling stone upon stone, the Indian sappers had got the road open, and we were able to make use of it with our heaviest vehicles.

Again, the roads were heavily mined; no traffic could possibly use them until the sappers had been along and removed the mines and other traps laid for the unwary. The sappers were up at work almost before the enemy had gone.

A JOB AND MORE

Later in the campaign, when we were on the Gazala line, and mines were being laid, my battalion had taken up a position next to an Indian brigade, and it was my job to find out how far the Indian sappers would go with their mine-laying before nightfall in order that our patrols might not unknowingly cross the mines. So keen, however, were these sappers to get on with their job that when night came and our patrols went out, it was found that they had laid mines nearly a mile beyond the limit which could have been expected. You can imagine the confusion in the dark when a patrol of Scotsmen came unexpectedly upon a patrol of Indians. This was not lessened by the Indians' insistence on trying to extract the password—which wass the only English word they could speak—from a number of Scotsmen who did not know it!

This particular minefield was a monument of labour and ingenuity, for these sappers had suffered casualties from enemy bobby-traps and were determined to get their own back. On this occasion they filled the minefield with so many ingineous contraptions that I don't envy any human being who endeavoured to walk through it.

RELIABLE FRIENDS

Whenever one came across Indian detachments in the desert and they were scattered wide and far—one could always rely on obtaining from them—if they had it—whatever one required in the way of petrol, water, food or anything else.

I spent a few weeks on a course in anti-tank gunnery with some of these Indian soldiers. It was really amazing to see how in a few days they picked up the intricacies and the drill in spite of the handicap of working through an interpreter who knew no more of the subject than they did. At the end of ten days, when it came to firing at moving targets, British units did well if they got off 15 rounds with ten hits in the allotted time. These Indians I am speaking of, however, had no difficulty in getting off 22 rounds and making 20 hits.

In conclusion, I for one could wish for nothing better than to fight with my unit alongside these cheerful and courageous warriors. Their utter dependability to support their sister British battalions in a tight spot in the past is well known throughout the Middle East. This high standard will, I am convinced, be maintained wherever British and Indian troops find themselves together.

Seven Men who sank A Raider

Two Madrassis in R.I.N.'s Achievement

"NO praise is great enough for their magnificent conduct in face of the greatest danger." In those words the Commanding Officer of H.M.I.S. *Bengal* summed up their shipmates' tribute to the Indian gunners who manned the 12-pounder in the epic fight against two heavily armed raiders. With Japanese shells exploding around, and sharpnel whipping over the ship, these seven ratings of the Royal Indian Navy wanted to keep on firing even when the order came to cease fire.

Their names are Petty Officer Mohammed Ibrahim, Mohammed Khan, Ismail Mohammed, Raghunath Sahee, Ismail Babar, P. K. Nair and Balachandra. Three of them come from Bombay, two from Madras and two from the Punjab.

ENEMY OPENED FIRE FIRST

Petty Officer Mohammed Ibrahim, the Stalwart Gunner's Mate, has served for nine years in the Navy, and his home is in Bombay. Describing the gun crew's experiences during the battle he said :—

"I was cleaning the starboard machine gun when action stations sounded. We immediately ran to our gun, as we have often done during drills, and saw the Japanese ships coming at us at full speed. The enemy opened fire first, and it seemed they would get us very quickly. But the Captain went straight for them, and the command came to open fire. We were very glad to have a go at the Japanese, and fired as quickly as we could.

"When the sixth round got the raider's magazine, we all cheered but kept on firing. It was wonderful and we were all very pleased.

"A shell burst just below our gun—a near miss—but my men carried on as though nothing had happened," added Petty Officer Mohammed Ibrahim.

"We were very sorry when the Captain ordered 'cease fire,' for we all wanted to go on firing. But we had scarcely any ammunition left. It was wonderful to see the enemy ship go up in flames, and we knew we had done a good job, but I didn't think we should ever get away."

NONE OF THEM EVER IN ACTION BEFORE

Lieutenant J. Mehra, Royal Indian Naval Reserve, who is a Punjabi and was in action in the Red Sea during the campaign against Italian East Africa, said :—

"As navigating officer I was on the bridge when the raiders were first sighted. It was wonderful to see the excitement among the men when 'Action Stations' was sounded. None of them had ever been in action before. They went to their stations with perfect discipline, all of them obviously eager to have a shot at their first raider.

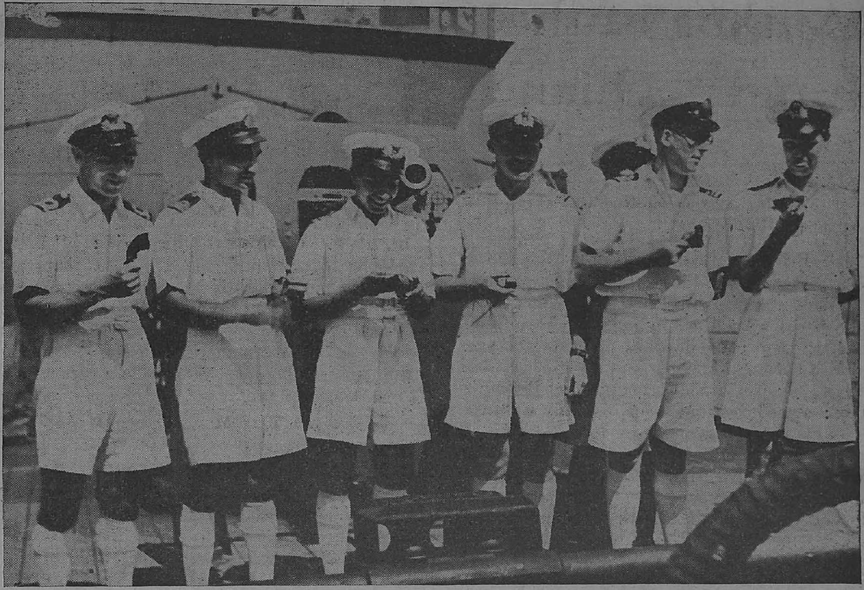
"The Captain was magnificent. He never turned a hair, inspired us all with his coolness and courage . . . It seemed hopeless from the start, and there is no doubt that his prompt decision to chance everything on a bold dash saved the day."

An amusing incident took place during the heat of the action, when H.M.I.S. *Bengal* was under heavy fire from the 10,000-ton raider's 5·5 inch guns.

The Engineer Officer, leaving the engine room for a peep above to see what was happening, called to the Captain: "And what are the wild waves saying now, Sir?" That got quite a laugh.

A jest in the midst of a life and death struggle—in that little incident can be seen the spirit of all on board H.M.I.S. *Bengal.*

H.M.I.S. *BENGAL'S* EPIC BATTLE



The photograph, taken in port after the battle, show Lieutenant-Commander W. J. Wilson, Royal Indian Naval Reserve, (third from the right) and other officers of H.M.I.S. Bengal. *This Royal Indian Navy warship engaged two Japanese raiders, which were ten times her size and far more heavily armed, in a successful endeavour to save a tanker she was escorting. She sank one 10,000-ton raider. The officers are holding "Souvenirs" of the battle—pieces of sharpnel found on the decks.*

The photograph shows the gallant gun crew of H.M.I.S. Bengal *at action stations at the 12-pounder gun. Three of these Royal Indian Navy men come from Bombay Presidency, two from Madras Presidency and two from the Punjab.*

Author of the Grand Alliance

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[The following sketch of Mr. Churchill whose 68th birthday was celebrated last week will be read with interest.]

THE British Prime Minister is the living embodiment of those traditional qualities of dynamic statesmanship, experience and vision which show the outstanding contribution which British leadership has made to the war and will make in the post-war world. There are two centuries-old principles in Britain's policy: armed resistance against any attempt to dominate the Continent by force—Philip of Spain, Louis XIV, Napoleon, Kaiser and Hitler have learnt this—and maintenance of peace in the world for free development of independent peoples. British idealism is also realistic since Britain's interests increasingly tend to coincide with those of other peoples.

Churchill is especially fitted to guide and interpret Britain's policy by being a bold man of action and an imaginative historian (a descendant of Marlborough). He combines determination and vision. In April 1939 Churchill summed up Britain's twofold policy by saying: "Let me say with regard to the action of our country for centuries that in all great struggles in which we have been engaged we have survived and emerged victorious not only because of the prowess of great commanders or famous battles gained on land and sea but also because the true interests of Britain have coincided with those of so many other States or nations and that we have been able to march in great company along the high road of progress and freedom for all."

"ARMS AND THE COVENANT"

Churchill before the war steadily advocated "Arms and the Covenant" as the modern expression of Britain's traditional twofold policy. On March 14, 1938—the day after the German annexation of Austria—Churchill urged a Grand Alliance against aggression to prevent the coming of war. He was not heeded till too late.

On September 3, 1939, Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty as in the Great War. (Britain's strategy was vital on the seas.) He stated the same day: "In this solemn hour it is a consolation to recall and dwell on our repeated efforts for peace. All have been ill-starred but all have been faithful and sincere. This is of the highest moral value—not only moral value but practical. This moral conviction alone affords that ever-fresh resilience which renews the strength and the energy of a people in long, doubtful, dark days. Our consciences are at rest. We must expect many disappointments and many unpleasant surprises. If great trials were to come on our island, there is a generation of Britons here and now ready to prove itself not unworthy. We are fighting to save the whole world from the pestilence of Nazi tyranny and in defence of all that is most sacred to man."

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Churchill became Prime Minister on May 10, 1940. On May 13 he sasid: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." In Britain's supreme testing time the Prime Minister's leadership inspired the British to uprise with clearer vision, and nobler effort in the national renaissance when the British Empire stood alone against the great German might.

After Dunkirk on June 4, 1940, the Prime Minister declared: "We will not be content with a defensive war. We must put our defences in this island into such a high state of organization that the fewest possible numbers will be required to give effective security and that the largest possible potential of offensive effort may be realized. We will prove ourselves once again able to defend our island home, to outride the storm of war and outlive the "menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone. We will go on to the end; we will never surrender."

BRITONS BEAT BLITZ

The Royal Air Force beat the Luftwaffe—"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Britons beat the Blitz—there were over 90,000 raid casualties in 1940. Meanwhile the Prime Minister worked day and night often in his air raid shelter adressed in his famous siren suit.

FORGING THE GRAND ALLIANCE

The Prime Minister worked for the realization of the pre-war Grand Alliance project. Britain had become the rallying point for weakened but undaunted Allies. On June 18, 1940, the Prime Minister stated: "We abate nothing of our just demands, not one jot or tittle do we recede. The Czech, the Poles, the Norwegians, the Dutch and the Belgians have joined their causes to our own. All these will be restored."

On June 12, 1941, an Allied conference took place in London. Ten days later Germany invaded Russia. The very same day the Prime Minister said: "We must speak now and at once, without a day's delay. We have but one aim, one single irrevocable purpose. We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi regime. From this nothing will turn us—nothing. We will never parley, we will fight him by sea, we will fight

him in the air until with God's help we will rid the earth of him and liberate other people from his yoke. That is our policy, that is our declaration. It follows, therefore, that we will give whatever help we can to Russia and the Russian people."

On July 12, 1941, an Anglo-Russian agreement was signed pledging mutual assistance and no separate armistice. Meanwhile, Britain had also strengthened her ties with America. A destroyer-bases agreement was signed.

THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

Anglo-American economic partnership was expanded to an idealistic partnership on August 14, 1941, by the Atlantic Charter. It was typical of Churchillian enterprise and defiance to steam into the U-boat-infested Atlantic.

On August 15, 1941, Churchill and Roosevelt sent to Stalin a message of solidarity proposing co-ordination, which resulted in the Beaverbrook-Harriman meeting in Moscow on September 28. Two days later the Prime Minister warned: "In order to enable Russia to remain indefinitely in the field as a first-class war making power, sacrifices of the most serious kind and the most extreme efforts will have to be made by the British people."

The greatly extended British war effort was further strained by the Japanese entry into the war about which the Prime Minister frankly warned on December 11, 1941: "It may well be that we will have to suffer considerable punishment. We have a very hard period to go through."

The United States and China became our new Allies and in December 1941, Wavell went to Chungking, Eden to Moscow, and the Prime Minister to Washington—Britain's activity in consolidating Churchill's long-advocated Grand Alliance which was formally achieved on January 1, 1942, by a pledge in the Atlantic Charter by 26 United Nations.

On January 27, 1942, the Prime Minister proclaimed: "We have formed a league of 26 United Nations which will march forward together."

The United Nations co-operation was largely based on the Anglo-American machinery—the combined Chiefs of Staffs Committee, the Pacific War Council, the Mutual Aid agreement and Combined Board for War Economics. Britain and the United States were working in close collaboration with Russia.

On May 26, 1942, a 20-year Anglo-Soviet Alliance was signed followed by Molotov's visit to Washington achieving a Russo-American understanding.

In July an American mission to London agreed with the British Government on the North African attack. In August the Prime Minister travelled to Moscow to inform Stalin of this agreed alternative to attacking in western Europe. Britain was keeping faith with her Allies.

UNITING THE UNITED NATIONS

The Prime Minister stated on November 11, 1942: "President Roosevelt has not found it possible to leave the United States nor Stalin to leave Russia. Therefore, I have had to make journeys in each direction carrying with me to and fro the most important military authorities and other experts and to labour so far as possible to bring all plans into concert and harmony."

That is the key to the importance of the Prime Minister's individual initiative and vital personality in uniting the United Nations. The Prime Minister's spacious vision and purpose embraced not only the formation of the United Nations but also the strategy essential for their victory.

Japs Following German Methods

By NICHOLAS GREGORY

JAPAN is employing virtually the same type of economic robbery as the Germans invented and perfected in exploiting occupied Europe. The Japanese are using the same attempts at legality and outright seizure in occupied China, Burma, Indo-China, the Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines.

Official Japanese broadcasts, monitored by the Federal Communications Commission and compiled by the Office of War Information, reveal the trickery that the Japanese are using in the Far East in a desperate attempt to put the occupied territories on a paying basis. The broadcasts reveal the frantic preoccupation with adverse economic conditions in Japan.

One problem that the Japanese are tackling is the disposal of many manufactured goods, mostly textiles, which have jammed warehouses, either because of no shipping space or because of the fear of American submarines operating in waters off the Japanese mainland. A special Government committee will purchase the goods, which will probably be forced on merchants of occupied countries.

One broadcast disclosed that Japan is experiencing a shortage of consumer goods at home. To meet the shortage, the Japanese announced on November 7 plans providing that "material shortages at home will be filled by the direct import of raw materials from the Southern regions."

A shortage also exists in foodstuffs, as is indicated by a 20 per cent increase in the price at which the Government purchases wheat, rye and barley.

Do the Nazis Know They're Licked?

[*By* ALEX DREIER, *former Berlin corresponding of the National Broadcasting Company.*]

I saw the first crack in German morale when the blitz victory over Russia, promised by Hitler, failed to materialize. Later, I saw the widespread uncertainty of victory grow into a conviction of defeat.

A year ago I would not have bothered to ask the man on the street what he thought of Hitler or the war. But, on the eve of Pearl Harbor, Germany had been so undermined with hopelessness that taxicab drivers, shop-keepers, and even Nazi officials talked to me openly of their fears of ultimate disaster. I don't mean that the Nazi regime is about to crack up. Far from it. Its fighting machine is still magnificent—despite losses on the Russian Front estimated at upwards of 1,000,000 men killed. In fact, recent setbacks have given Germany a will to fight with new ferocity.

The Germans believe that when they stop fighting, a murderous horde of avengers—Russians, Poles, Czechs, Serbs, Norwegians, Belgians, Danes, Dutch and French—will swarm over their land.

"If Germany is defeated," a Nazi officer told me, "thirty million Germans will die—and not on the battlefield."

Where we of the United Nations are fighting for victory, the Germans are fighting to delay defeat. Hitler's personal insistence on the Russian war has shaken the people's confidence in his omniscience, and I question whether any later victories can completely erase the doubt they have acquired in recent months.

To-day the average German—and I talked with persons in every segment of society—faces the war like this: "We've knocked over nine countries, and what has it got us? Our food isn't better, and our clothes are worse. Something has gone wrong in Russia, and now we've got the United States against us, too. We'll be licked in the end, but can't quit."

HITLER'S BIG MISTAKE

One day, shortly before I left Berlin, an army captain who serves as an official spokes-man for the High Command was sitting with me in the bar of the Kaiserhof Hotel.

"Not going exactly as you boys planned in Russia?" I ventured.

The captain hesitated, then muttered confidentially, "Trouble is, there is no terminal point. In every other campaign, there was. In Holland, Rotterdam; in France, Paris. In England, it would be London. But in Russia where is it? Not Leningrad or Moscow—those Bolsheviks would keep right on fighting." He grinned sourly. "May be it's Vladivostok?"

"But, now that you've started it, when are you going to finish it?"

"Who knows?" he shrugged. When he spoke again, there was a tinge of sadness in his voice: "Perhaps never. It was *his* big mistake."

The next day I was in a Berlin apartment with a half dozen German friends listening to a BBC news program. Watching the group, you'd never suspect that they could have lost their heads if the Gestapo had caught them listening to "foreign propaganda." Among the guests was a German major-general, a brilliant geologist, whom I had known for some time. Within a week he was to go to Occupied Russia to search for chemicals and minerals to help supply the Nazi war machine. He told me, in short, bitter sentences, what he thought of the Nazis.

"You may think you hate them," he said gravely, "but really to hate them, you've got to be German. Look at the situation they've put us in. If we win the war, they'll have a tighter grip around our necks than ever. If we lose . . ."

In what he left unsaid I sensed that universal fear of postwar reprisals.

"Then why," I asked him, "do you keep on obeying the orders of the Nazi leaders?"

His eyes flashed as he replied. "What else could I do?" Yet he gave me at least a hint that there is little love lost between the generals and the Nazis.

A CHALLENGE

One evening shortly before I left Berlin, I challenged the military censor of the German radio, a Lieutenant Obermeyer, to make a tour of Berlin with me. "We'll talk with cab drivers, waiters, newspaper vendors, and grocery clerks," I proposed. "We'll ask them what they think of the government. If more than one in five say anything favorable, I'll pay you 50 marks. Of course, you'll have to wear civilian clothes and keep your mouth shut. How about it?"

Lieutenant Obermeyer's only reply was to laugh uneasily and stride haughtily away.

For Americans, it's difficult to imagine the disbelief with which the average German reads his papers or listens to the radio. When Colonel Werner Moelders, Germany's 26-year-old war ace, credited with shooting down 115 enemy planes, crashed to death in a transport plane on November 22, Goering

published in the party newspapers a moving tribute to the dead aviator. But another story spread through Berlin like wildfire.

According to this account, Moelders, a Catholic Youth leader prior to the Nazi regime, was disturbed by the increasing government seizures of church property. He was especially distressed when he heard that the Gestapo was about to close a cloister in Breslau where his sister was a nun. The Bishop of Breslau appealed to Moelders to intercede with Hitler, and Moelders acted without delay. "I cannot continue to fight for the Fatherland," he telegraphed to the Führer, "if the Gestapo continues to attack the home front." The Gestapo revenge was prompt: its agents engineered an explosion in the transport plane in which Moelders was a passenger.

I can't vouch for that story. But it's significant because I heard it from a dozen German citizens and minor officials during my last days in Berlin. They were, in short, charging their own government with lying and murder.

Grumbling in Germany increased tremendously when the promised Russian blitz turned into a prolonged campaign. To-day the average German is grumbling about taxes—for five years now, he has been paying one-third of his income to the government in direct taxes, to say nothing of dozens of indirect taxes which bring his tribute up closer to 50 per cent. He seldom sees eggs or bacon, and he never sees coffee—unless he knows some Nazi bigwig. Although he knows he won't starve, he's grumbling about the shortage of food.

TERRIFIC DEATH TOLL

But what disturbs the German far more fundamentally than these inconveniences is the terrific death toll on the Russian Front. The people aren't accustomed to *German* deaths. Berlin has been practically untouched by Royal Air Force bombings. For the first time, the Russians brought the realities of war home to the Germans. As I left Berlin, families were being informed of the deaths of their sons in the curt manner of Nazi officialdom: "Several weeks ago your son, Hans Wolfgang, died in the greater glory of his Fatherland and Führer. It is the wish of the German High Command that the relatives concerned do not go into obvious mourning."

I met innumerable Germans who reacted to the racial and cultural theories of the Nazis as if they were pure nonsense. During my entire stay in Germany, I never saw a German civilian participate in an attack on a Jew, despite the relentless press campaign exposing the "Jewish menace." A Berlin rabbi told me that only Hitler's SS troops continue to torture the Jews. He added that many Aryan Germans risk their lives by giving milk and fresh vegetables to Jewish families. But the Nuremburg laws and the SS men suffice to make the lot of the Jew in Germany pitiable. When I left Berlin, Jewish suicides were running as high as 300 a night. As many as 2,000 Jews were being transported in trucks to Poland every day. In Switzerland I heard reliable reports that hundreds were being gassed to death en route.

After two-and-a-half years of war, Germany is rife with anti-war and anti-Nazi sentiment but the Allies must not commit the unpardonable sin of underestimating German strength. There is no immediate chance of internal collapse in Germany. There is no organization among the dissatisfied elements. Catholic and Protestant clergymen are not prepared to take political action. Communist units are springing up again throughout the Reich, but they are waiting until the day of defeat to act openly. So far as I know, only one secret radio station is operating, and I suspect it is controlled by the army. It attacks only the Nazi party, never the military leaders or Hitler himself. These are not the days of the French Revolution. You can't overthrow a government with leaflets, pitchforks and ideals.

—*Condensed from 'The American Magazine'.*

A King prays with Jawans

High Egyptian Army officers and Government officials gave up their places to enable Indian soldiers to sit around King Farouk in Cairo, recently.

A huge crowd assembled to offer prayers in the historic Mosque of Amr, when it was learned that the King was to pray there. The officers and officials insisted that the Indian troops, many of whom bore marks of Western Desert fighting, should occupy the front rows.

Soon after the troops had taken their places in the seats of honour the thunder of guns was heard firing the Royal Salute. A great volume of cheering indicated that the King was on his way.

It was a proud moment for the Jawans when the King entered, and took his place among them.

Italy in Two Years of War

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ITALY'S present front-line army totals about 75 Divisions—something over a million men. In the two and a half years that Italy has been in the war it has lost nearly half its strength—as well as an empire.

Before General Alexander's present campaign began on October 25, we held 262,000 Italian prisoners. Now that figure considerably exceeds 300,000. It includes 80 Generals and complete staffs of dozens of Divisions.

Few armies in modern times have fought worse or suffered more severely in proportion to its size. Yet it would be wrong to suppose that it will fight badly in defence of its own land—supposing it gets a chance to do so.

At present there are some 25 Divisions of front-line troops in Italy and the Italian islands. After them come probably 750,000 second-line troops—the Fascist Militia and partially trained units.

Mussolini sent 10 Divisions to be butchered in Russia. From Albania across the Balkans to the Dodecanese he has spread 30 Divisions to act as policemen for the Axis. The remainder—10 to 11 Divisions—are in North Africa, the majority of them casualties.

This is how the Duce's soldiers have melted away in casualties:

General Wavell's Libyan campaign—Four regular Divisions, four Black Shirt Militia Divisions and two Colonial Divisions.

In Eritrea, East Africa and Abyssinia—Twelve Italian Divisions and 25 Colonial Divisions.

The Greek invasion—Eleven Metropolitan Divisions.

General Auchinleck's campaign—Two Metropolitan Divisions.

General Alexander's offensive—Eight Metropolitan Divisions.

The Russian and the Balkan campaigns—Five Divisions.

What Mussolini is left of the " eight million gleaming bayonets " he once bragged about is an army ill-equipped in armour, fairly strong in field artillery but desperately weak in anti-aircraft power. There is probably only one tank division in it. The best Italian tanks match with the fourth best British model. The air cover supplied by the Regia Aeronautica is quite inadequate to a modern army. Italy's first-line aircraft production does not exceed 700 aircraft per month. No type is comparable with the best British and American models. The Italian army has not only to face a possible invasion from the forces of the United Nations but from the German army.

Man who did not Believe in Peace

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HERE are extracts from Mussolini's speeches in the past 20 years :—

" To me violence is perfetcly moral—more moral than compromise or bargaining. Words are very fine things, but rifles, machine-guns, warships, aeroplanes and cannon are still finer things."

" The legend that Italians are not fighters must be dispelled."

" War is to man as maternity is to woman. I do not believe in perpetual peace."

" I hold out an olive branch, but it is one that springs from 8,000,000 bayonets."

" Let it be said again that the foundation of our doctrine and civilization is a preparation for ever more intense use of the Italian people for military life."

" Great Britain has not revealed marked warlike tendency for the past few years."

" Between gold and iron, Machiavelli chose iron. In the dilemma ' gold or guns ' we have already made our choice—guns."

From his speech at the review of Italy's armed forces in March 1938 :—

" Army—If need be, Italy can mobilize 9,000,000 men and can put 4,000,000 men into the field. The morale of these troops is simply superb.

" Navy—Italy has the most powerful submarine fleet in the world. To those who say in future that battleships will remain locked in ports, I reply that this will not happen to Italy. All Italy's ships will be on the water, fighting.

" Air force—The Italian air force has become one of the first in the world. Italy's first-line machines number several thousands, all of the most modern type. As for the air-men themselves, their prowess has become legendary."

" The whole technique of bombing has been improved and therefore the possibility of hitting targets has been improved."

" With our air force and submarines with Germany, we are now engaged in a bitter war against England. I asked for and obtained permission from the Fuehrer to take part with planes and submarines in this war against England."

So really the people of Genoa, Milan and Turin cannot complain if the British strike back, writes George Murray in the *Daily Mail*.

Alarm in Italy

[By a Special Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*]

ALARM spreading among Italians caused by our bombing raids is clearly revealed by the propaganda campaign undertaken post haste by the Fascist Government. Even Count Grandi has been exhumed from his political grave for the purpose. Official and unofficial mouthpieces have been asserting that it is not true that Italian people are in a state of panic or that any wind of defeatism is flowing in Italy. Government's unsolicited denials are only indicative of a spirit which, under the increasing strain of military events in North Africa and bombing raids on Italian cities, is bound to deteriorate very rapidly.

ITALIAN AND GERMAN RATIONS

Moreover, this strategical catastrophe occurs at a moment when warweariness is being brought to breaking point both by food conditions and by the enslavement of Italian industry to Germany. It hardly makes the Italian more inclined for war to realize that his weekly bread ration is one of 37 ounces in comparison with the German's 80 ounces, that he must subsist on 3½ ounces of meat a week in comparison with the German ration of 12½ ounces, that his 4½ ounces of sugar and 3½ ounces of fat are approximately half of what his "partner" receives, and that he has only 17½ ounces of potatoes in comparison with 157 ounces per head available in Germany.

DEPENDENCE ON GERMANY

Italy's tragic industrial position again may be visualised by glancing at the figures of the country's minimum requirements of essential raw materials not for war production but for the needs of the civilian population. Italy depends on Germany for 70 per cent of her requirements of coal—or 12,000,000 tons a year—and it has long been common knowledge that Germany finds it an impossible task to send her 200 trains of coal daily. As regards petrol, 85 per cent of what is required must now come from Rumania and that, of course, only when Germany can spare it. Italy also depends on Germany entirely for copper and nickel, and in great part for iron and steel. All her heavy machinery and her precision and optical instruments come from the Reich, as also a very large part of the ingredients for making high-explosive bombs.

Moreover, Italy produces only 7,000 tons of wool, whereas her normal requirements are 15,000 tons. Equally she should import 95 per cent of her cotton needs, and again she is getting none. She should import 80 per cent of her leather, and she is getting none of that either. To complete the picture, Italian agriculture will now suffer by the loss of 900,000 tons of phosphates which Italy used to import for fertilisers from North

WITH APOLOGIES TO NERO

(*After 18 months of silence, Mussolini made a speech in Rome on December 2.*)

Africa. As to the once prosperous textile industry of Northern Italy, that is completely ruined.

HAND TO MOUTH

Generally the economic life of the country has been reduced to a hand-to-mouth basis dependent entirely on the goodwill and needs of Germany, and she in her turn has transport problems enough as the result of Royal Air Force raids and the immense length of her communications with the Eastern Front.

Developments in North Africa can be taken as the last straw. Tension had already approached breaking point on account of the cowardly way in which Germany left in the lurch Italian divisions in the battles of Egypt and Libya. Italian people now see Mussolini being reduced to asking Hitler to come and occupy Italy. The Fascist regime can continue to survive only in so far as German troops and bayonets reinforce the Gestapo already installed within Italy. But Italians are well aware that Germany is not going to defend Italy for Italy's sake. High political and military circles have always realised that Nazi Germany has held for Italy as a military ally nothing but contempt.

A Raid a Day

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Allied Attacks on Burma in November

DURING the past month (November) Royal Air Force activity over Japanese-occupied Burma has shown a decided increase. Compared to October, when a total of thirteen daylight raids were made on enemy objectives, last month our aircraft were out on eight days and ten nights and the tonnage of bombs dropped was considerably greater. Night bombing started in the middle of the month when medium bombers made a series of attacks on enemy shipping at Akyab. The operations continued well into the following day and, in addition to the damage caused along the water-front, resulted in sinking one Japanese merchant vessel and damaging another. It was on that day that strong enemy fighter opposition was encountered and our own fighters, which had accompanied the bombers on the last two attacks, found plenty to occupy them in the combats that ensued. Four Japanese fighters were destroyed and several others damaged—our losses were five aircraft. To-day the damaged jetty at Akyab is a desolate sight with two sunken vessels nearby resting on the harbour bottom.

RAID EVERY NIGHT

From November 17th to 25th our bombers were out against enemy aerodromes every night, with the exception of the nineteenth. Bomb loads were dropped on Mingalden, Magwe, Meiktila, Toungoo and their satellites. Photographs taken later have confirmed that bombing was accurate and that many hits were registered, particularly on runaways and dispersal areas. Crews reported that the fires they had started were visible as far as 120 miles away.

Daylight raids by Blenheim bombers were directed against a variety of targets which included enemy aerodromes, railway stations, and many Japanese-occupied buildings.

As well as escorting bombers on several of the daylight raids, our fighters have made many attacks on their own account, often combining their escort duties with the successful shooting up of such targets as aerodromes, oil installations, enemy troops, rivercraft carrying men and supplies. A Japanese river steamer was sunk by their cannon fire.

The normal and arduous routine of shipping-escort and anti-submarine patrols was carried on throughout the month and, as usual, the big flying boats covered thousands of miles of ocean in their unceasing search for the enemy.

WELLINGTON BOMBERS

The operations carried out during November reveal the interesting fact that Wellington bombers, capable of long range attacks, have now added their weight to the raids we are making from India. With its superior range and bomb loading, this famous bomber is a welcome addition to the growing strength of the Air Forces in India.

Concurrently with the Royal Air Force operations, heavy bombers of the United States Air Forces have continued to strike hard at enemy objectives. Of nine raids last month their most spectacular was a damaging attack on the Japanese-controlled oil refinery at Bangkok—the only petroleum refinery in Thailand. Railway yards at Mandalay were also singled out for particular attention and many tons of heavy bombs were dropped on this important transport centre. At Rangoon the Allied Air Forces chose different targets. The Royal Air Force attacks were directed against Mingaladon aerodromes while the American bombers, operating on different occasions, made two midday raids on which large bombs were dropped with good effect on docks, shipping and warehouses.

American fighters carried out constant offensive patrols throughout November and in addition to bringing back valuable information made effective low level attacks on the Japanese forces at Shingbwiyang and Maingkwan and inflicted casualties on enemy personnel at Taihpa-Ga.

"One-Ship Fleet"

Exploit of the U.S. Cruiser "Boise"

THE light cruiser *U.S.S. Boise* has arrived from the Solomons with scars left by enemy shells and the fighting record of a veritable "one-ship fleet," says a Navy announcement in Washington.

During the weeks preceding the action off Cape Experance, the Japanese had been successful at making sneak night landings of troop reinforcements at Guadalcanar from cruisers, destroyers and small transports. Navy and Marine Corps planes from Guadalcanar persistently attacked the landing parties, but air attack alone did not stop them. A task group of which the *Boise* was a member was ordered to do the job. It did.

On October 11 the *Boise* and her sister ships had been patiently waiting outside the range of the enemy's air reconnaissance. The trap was set, and that day the game was discovered approaching. U.S. planes spotted an enemy task force composed of cruisers and destroyers steaming at high speed toward Guadalcanar. The U.S. task group made all speed to intercept it. That evening the *Boise*, in a column of cruisers with a destroyer screen, was chasing along at 25 knots. The sea was smooth, with long swells running. The night was dark. The enemy was somewhere ahead.

The *Boise* made out six enemy ships on her starboard side—three appeared large, and three were smaller. Captain Moran laid his main batteries on the leading heavy ship and his anti-aircraft batteries on a smaller one, then gave the order to fire.

In a matter of seconds the first target was lit up—afire amidships. By the light of the blaze she was tentatively identified as a heavy cruiser of the *Nati* class. The *Boise's* guns hit her again and again for four minutes, and she sank, going down bow first, her screws still turning.

Meanwhile splashes from the *Boise's* lighter guns were observed on either side of a smaller ship in the enemy van. Shortly this ship could no longer be seen, although shell splashes were still visible. Reports from other U.S. ships said she was a Jap destroyer, which broke in two and sank.

A few minutes later the *Boise* had her main batteries trained on another target, believed to be a destroyer. This ship exploded and disappeared after one minute of the *Boise's* murderous fire.

A minute later the shifty *Boise* was concentrating everything her guns could throw on a fourth target. Fires broke out on the bow of this ship, illuminating her mid-section. She was observed to be a two-stacker Japanese cruiser which was returning the fire of the *Boise* in kind. This contact lasted four minutes, in which the *Boise* took a hit from an eight-inch shell and several hits from five-inchers. The Captain's cabin was demolished and the wreckage fired. A direct hit put one of the *Boise's* five-inchers out of action. But soon the enemy ship, which had been burning brightly, exploded violently several times and was not seen again.

For two minutes the *Boise* had no target. During these minutes she turned on an enemy destroyer. After two minutes of attention from the *Boise's* guns she, too, disappeared.

Five minutes later, while the *Boise's* crew was busy extinguishing the fire in the remains of the Captain's cabin, a torpedo wake was reported ahead. The ship was brought about, with a hard right rudder, parallel with the torpedo's track. As this torpedo hissed by, a few feet from the *Boise's* bow, another passed aft along the starboard side and missed the stern by 30 yards.

In the short time which had elapsed since the firing of her first salvo, the *Boise* had engaged five Japanese ships. The sixth was now disclosed abaft her starboard beam. As the *Boise* directed her fire at this target, a heavy enemy cruiser opened up from somewhere forward to the starboard. For three long minutes this ship fired on the *Boise* unopposed, shooting "beautifully," with eight-inch twinmounts repeatedly "straddling" the *Boise* along her forward deck. Then this enemy ship blew up under the fire of the *Boise* and other ships of the U.S. force.

The action over and intensive damage-control measures under way, Captain Moran set his course to rejoin the rest of the force. The *Boise*, given up for lost by her sister ships, slipped like a ghost into her regular station at 20 knots. Her fires were out. She was down by the head, but her keel was even. Her bulkheads were shored up, her holes were plugged with bedding and pumps were sucking out the water which had been taken in through her torn sides. Her wounded had received such efficient medical aid that every one subsequently recovered but the lives of 3 officers and 104 men were victory's price to the *Boise* personnel.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

4th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked Frankfurt in western Germany.

The invention of Noctovisor, weapon to locate enemy planes and ships at night, by J. L. Baird, inventor of television, was announced.

5th Dec.—There was some enemy air activity over the coastal area, north-east of England.

6th Dec.—In a speech at Bradford, Mr. Churchill said that the war was approaching its most tense part: "Our enemies are very powerful. They have many millions of soldiers."

8th Dec.—There was slight enemy air activity over the south coast of England.

The Royal Air Force raided Karlsrube and Iffezheim.

9th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked canal barges and trains between the Dutch coast and Dortmund Ems Canal.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

4th Dec.—Two German submarines were sunk off the east coast of Canada.

9th Dec.—President Quezon of the Philippines said in an interview: "Recent Japanese broadcasts show that Japan has utterly failed to win the Filipino people to her side."

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON.

4th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked the enemy aerodrome at Magwe in Burma. Railway stations at Kadu and Haungton on the Mandalay-Myitkina were also attacked.

6th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked a concentration of Japanese transport at Pyawbwe, 75 miles south of Mandalay. A Japanese steamer on the Kaladan river was damaged.

7th Dec.—Japanese aircraft made a brief attack on Chittagong area. Only slight damage was caused.

The Royal Air Force attacked an enemy railway station near Katha in Central Burma.

8th Dec.—According to American military experts, Japanese eyes were on Yunnan rather than India. "Invasion of India impossible."

His Excellency Lord Linlithgow's term of office as Viceroy of India was extended by six months until October 1943.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

4th Dec.—A second Axis counter-attack near Tebourba was repelled. New Nazi attacks on French positions at Port du Fahs were repelled. United States planes raided Tripoli. German aircraft raided Cyrenaica.

Mussolini, in a broadcast, appealed to all Italian Mayors "to get to work with the minimum of red tape" on the evacuation of Italian cities.

Liberia granted airbase rights to the United States for the duration of the war.

5th Dec.—An Italian torpedo boat was sunk off Eastern Tunisia. Two merchant vessels were also sunk.

The siege of Tunis began. There was violent fighting in the Mateur sector.

British and American troops crossed the border of the French Colony of Ivory Coast in West Africa.

LIMITLESS SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING

"Devastation, rape, murder and starvation have invaded all Europe, and under the command of Japan, half Asia as well. The quicker the ruin can be made good and the people relieved of their starvation, the sooner shall we be able to set out upon a firm reconstruction of our international life, social, political and economic, which alone can justify the almost limitless sacrifice and suffering of the peoples . . . The power of the air provides an opportunity which has never before existed for the control of world order. An international air force could reach the most remote corners of the world and could strike at any who sought to break peace for his own advantage."

—SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, *in a broadcast to America.*

A troopship carrying Italian and German prisoners of war was torpedoed off the coast of Portuguese East Africa.

The Rome Radio said that Italians were fighting to prove to the world that Italians were not just a nation of pub-keepers, fiddlers, tourist guides, waiters or hotel-keepers.

According to the Morocco Radio, Hitler had asked Mussolini to withdraw the privileges granted to the Vatican under the Lateran Treaties.

6th Dec.—Axis troops re-occupied Djedeida and entered Tebourba.

An Italian battleship and two cruisers were hit during an air raid on Naples by American aircraft.

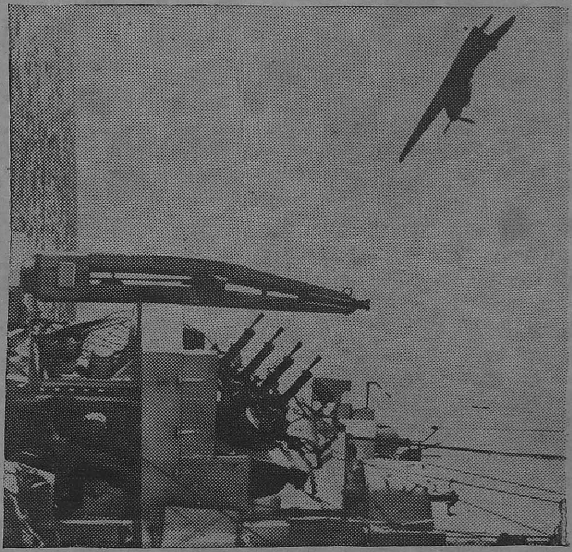
8th Dec.—Axis strength in Tunis-Bizerta exceeded 22,000. There was heavy fighting near Tebourba. Admiral Darlan and General Eisenhomer exchanged messages. British Commandos and paratroops were active behind enemy lines.

Evacuation of civilians from towns throughout Italy began.

9th Dec.—General Eisenhomer announced that Dakar had been handed over for the use of United Nations.

United States Navy Secretary, Col. Knox, announced that one-quarter of the French fleet in Toulon had been captured intact.

There was a great tank battle in the Tebourba area.



British destroyers bear the brunt of the unceasing battle of the Atlantic, their never-ending duties including the hunting and destruction of German U-boats, patrolling and convoying, in addition to fighting major engagements beside the capital ships. Picture shows a British "Fulmar" *fighter from an aircraft-carrier making a practice dive-bombing attack on a British destroyer at sea.*

According to an American wireless commentator, Mr. John Mcrane, "Darlan is strengthening his grip on French North Africa." According to the Morocco Radio, "Admiral Darlan, High Commissioner for the French Empire, has assumed leadership *de jure* and *de facto* of the French colonial empire."

7th Dec.—According to the Morocco Radio, members of the Italian Senate made representations to the King of Italy on the question of putting out peace feelers.

Marshal Badoglio was arrested by the Italian secret police for being involved in a plot against the Duce.

Violent fighting was in progress in the triangle of Djedeida-Tebourba-Mateur. Eleven Axis ships were sunk off Tunisia.

Rommel was estimated to have 50,000 Axis troops in the El Agheila region. General Montgomery said in an interview: "We shall win the battle of El Agheila."

10th Dec.—Twenty enemy tanks and 7 Axis planes were destroyed. Admiral Darlan held up American radio campaign by refusing to allow use of Rabat station.

Mussolini ordered urgent evacuation of the whole civilian population from southern Italy.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

4th Dec.—The Russians pierced the second Nazi defence line of the encircled enemy north-west of Stalingrad. Soviet troops closed in on Rzhev and Veliki Lukie. Flocks of large German transports brought in reinforcements to the Don-Volga area.

5th Dec.—Desperate German counter-attacks on the Rzhev front failed.

It was revealed that on Hitler's orders all the Germans wounded in Stalingrad were sent to the Balkans instead of Germany. All contact between the German wounded and the population was forbidden.

Field Marshal Mannerheim informed the International Red Cross that 20,000 Russian prisoners had died of starvation in Finland.

6th Dec.—The Red Army launched an offensive in the direction of Novocherkask and Rostov. Nazis rushed reinforcements to Rzhev.

The Russians built an invisible underwater bridge on the Central Front, across which Russian monster tanks were hurled at the Germans.

7th Dec.—More places were retaken by the Red Army in its advance west of Rzhev. The Germans were held at Tuapse.

8th Dec.—There was violent fighting north-east of Tuapse. The Red Army launched a new offensive west of Rzhev.

9th Dec.—The Red Army launched a new offensive near Voronezh. Two German supply ships and two transport ships were sunk.

10th Dec.—The Nazis resisted fiercely in most sectors. Russian positions at Velikie Luki were attacked. Forty-three Nazi transport planes were destroyed.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

5th Dec.—Air raid alerts were sounded in Berne, Neuchatel and other places in Switzerland.

8th Dec.—General Franco warned Hitler that he would resist any German attempt at crossing Spanish territory to bring help to the Axis forces in Africa.

SHIPPING

4th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked an enemy convoy and sank two destroyers and four other ships.

8th Dec.—The British submarine *Unique* was lost.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

4th Dec.—Vichy Government was transferred to Paris.

General Tsolakoglu, Prime Minister of the Axis-occupied Greece, resigned, handing over the premiership to M. Logothetopoulos.

5th Dec.—The former French Prime Minister, M. Herriot, and Jean Borotra (the famous Davis Cup French tennis star) were arrested by the Vichy authorities.

8th Dec.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Philips Wireless Valve and Radio Works at Eindhoven in Holland.

American Flying Fortresses attacked the Lille locomotive and carriage works and bombed an enemy airfield at Abbeville.

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THE FAR EAST

4th Dec.—Japanese attempts to reinforce trapped troops in Buna-Gona were frustrated by Allied aircraft.

5th Dec.—Allied aircraft raided Koepang. Twenty-one enemy planes were set on fire.

Mr. Peter Frazer, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said: "In many respects the Japanese are more dangerous than the Germans. The war with Japan is going to be a hard and bitter struggle."

6th Dec.—Japanese troops made their last stand at Gona and Buna. Enemy forces were split up. A Japanese convoy was bombed off the Solomons.

7th Dec.—Japanese bases were destroyed in Guadalcanar.

8th Dec.—The Japanese were isolated in Buna. Rabaul was bombed.

9th Dec.—Twenty Japanese planes were destroyed over New Guinea in fierce fighting.

Heroes' Hotel

They call it Heroes' Hotel, because of the gallantry of its gatherings.

The town in which it is situated plays a key part in India's defence, and every evening, when their duties permit, Service personnel drop in for a drink.

The decoration ribbons they wear embrace every type of bravery on land, on the sea, and in the air.

There is the wearer of a D.S.O. won in Libya, a Sidi Barrani M.C., a Battle of Britain D.F.C., a Malayan D.C.M., and a Crete M.M.

Navy men don't wear any medal ribbons on their shirts, but among the sailors are a Narvik D.S.O., a Matapan D.S.C., and a submarine D.S.M.

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